

National Partner Awards

May 14, 2001

- Good Morning! It's great to see all of you here in a place that has had such an important part of our country's history.
- I hope all of you have seen Secretary of Energy Abraham's greeting inserted in the conference program.
- Allow me to read just a few sentences.
- Energy has risen to the top of our national agenda. Possible electricity supply disruptions and rising gasoline prices in the busy summer driving season clearly signal the need for a sharp focus on setting national energy priorities.
- Our energy strategy will be based on a principle that you, as Clean Cities stakeholders, already understand. It is an understanding that a balanced approach with a diversity of supply means security.
- I commend you for your vision and initiative and urge you to continue your efforts to increase the use of clean, domestically produced alternative fuels.

- Now, I'd like to add my thanks and gratitude to the wonderful Philadelphia coalition, to local stakeholders, and to James Ferguson and Trish Passarella from our Philadelphia regional office for their efforts to make this a fantastic conference.
- It's my pleasure this morning to announce the 2001 Clean Cities National Partner Awards.
- Five years ago, at the Clean Cities Conference in Long Beach, we began this fine tradition of recognizing stakeholders who have led their communities, their states, --and provided stellar examples for all of us--in championing the use of domestically produced, clean-burning alternative fuels in our vehicles.
- Former President Dwight Eisenhower said this about leadership: "I'll tell you what leadership is: It's persuasion...and conciliation...and education...and patience." In our case--persuasion and education—one legislator at a time—one driver at a time; patience—boundless—at least 20 more years.
- At no other time has your leadership been more critical. Worldwide demand for oil is growing at a near-record pace. Today, in the U.S. we import 54% of our oil—an all time high—and that percentage is still projected to increase for years into the future.
- Meanwhile, we are experiencing the effects of a stagnating supply network in combination with the growth in demand.

- Average gasoline prices have shot up more than 20 cents per gallon over the past few weeks, and additional increases during the summer months are projected.
- It's getting people's attention, particularly in parallel with rolling electricity blackouts. Who doubts the stage is set for more price volatility—and perhaps spot shortages of our precious black gold?
- So what do we do about this oil situation? We increase supply of all kinds of fuels—but particularly clean, domestic ones—and we reduce demand. That's it folks—the whole story—two options.
- The Department of Energy has many people to thank, including all of you, for your diligence in helping to reduce demand for oil by developing local markets for alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles—and for taking those critical first steps in the thousand mile journey.
- Today, we have selected some of the “best of the best” organizations that have made significant contributions to the AFV market, and will recognize them with our coveted national partner awards for 2001.
- This year's National Partner Award winners were selected from 33 nominations submitted by

local Clean Cities coordinators, stakeholders, and the Department of Energy's Regional Offices.

- So let us begin with the first winner to be introduced into our Clean Cities Hall of Fame.

AMERICAN AIRLINES

- Flying high...airports and airlines are expanding at a record pace, (kind of like transportation fuel demand). That's great, but this growth also brings the unfortunate by-product of greater concentrations of mobile source pollution.
- Our first national partner award goes to an organization that is doing something about pollution at airports...and that organization is American Airlines.
- American Airlines has deployed approximately 1,000 zero-emission electric vehicles nationwide.
- At its major hub, the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, the airline operates approximately 200 electric baggage carts, two tugs, and cargo loaders.
- Even more exciting, within three years, some 900 vehicles at DFW will be powered by electricity. In addition, American Airlines has plans for expanding its alternative fuel fleet in major cities in the U.S. and abroad.

- Accepting on behalf of American Airlines is Ms. Genie Jones (*first name is pronounced Jean-ie*), Director of the Corporate Environmental Department for American Airlines.

TERRY HENRY, FLEET MAINTENANCE MANAGER, DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

- In addition to the people at American Airlines, there are many individuals at airports who work day in and day out proclaiming the virtues of alternative fuel vehicles who back up their talk by making things happen.
- Every day, nearly 90,000 Denver airline passengers can breathe a little easier, thanks to the efforts of one gentleman; his name is Terry Henry, assistant deputy manager of Aviation Fleet Maintenance at the Denver International Airport.
- Under Terry's leadership, more than 240 AFVs— from CNG transit buses to electric and natural gas powered ground service equipment—operate within the airport's 53-square mile territory.
- Please join me in recognizing Terry Henry...

METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY

- Transit authorities are also making remarkable strides in cleaning the air in their communities. More than 20 percent of all new transit bus orders are now for natural gas buses.
- The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, or MARTA, is leading the way with more than 300 natural gas buses to be on Atlanta's streets by the end of 2001. Furthermore, the company has made a commitment that 100 percent of its new bus purchases will be CNG.
- The Department of Energy also applauds MARTA for its leadership and for its willingness to share information and teach other transit authorities about natural gas buses. MARTA is a true friend to the nation's transit fleets.
- Michael Hill, Director of Engineering for MARTA, is here to accept the award.

E85 INFRASTRUCTURE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- Clean Cities is all about partnerships, of course, and this next award exemplifies the benefits of partnerships.

- In Minneapolis, Minnesota, 54 publicly accessible E85 stations have been built, thanks to the partnership among a retail operator, Holiday Stationstores; the Minnesota Corn Growers Association; and the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Division.
- Efforts of this group have done much to solve the familiar chicken and egg problem affecting alternative fuels.
- While retailers like Holiday make E85 available, the Corn Growers have been working to increase the supply of ethanol, and the Minnesota Department of Commerce has worked to rally businesses and state agencies to use the fuel.
- “Free Fuel Giveaways” have been just one of the innovative approaches to get consumers to use the E85.
- Here from Minnesota to accept the E85 Infrastructure Achievement award are:
- Jim DuCharme (*pronounced “do sharm” -- rhymes with “arm”*), the Director of Petroleum Marketing for Holiday Stationstores;
- Accepting on behalf of the Minnesota Corn Growers Association is Bruce Stockman, Executive Director of the Association;

- Joining them is Mike Taylor, Project Consultant for Clean Fuels, Minnesota Department of Commerce.

NEW YORK STATE CLEAN FUELED VEHICLES COUNCIL

- The next national partner award goes to another innovative partnership. This council was formed to guide state agencies in their compliance with state laws and Energy Policy Act requirements.
- This council also initiated a statewide CNG fueling infrastructure plan, which calls for the installation of 30 low-volume, fast-fill stations at sites operated by the state's Department of Transportation.
- The second phase will include construction of 16 high-volume CNG stations along heavily traveled routes.
- These stations will allow for the drivers of the state's 1,300 AFVs and other private fleets to refill quickly and conveniently...
- Which state is so fortunate to have this government leadership? Well, it is New York.
- And the award goes to the New York State Clean Fueled Vehicles Council.

- Here to accept the award are the vice chairman of the Council, Mr. John Spano (*pronounced Span-oh*), Deputy Commissioner of Support Services for the State of New York, Office of General Services, and Mr. Joe Darling, Director of Equipment Management for the New York State Department of Transportation.

NORTHSIDE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

- School bus fleets are another important focus of the Clean Cities Program. This next award goes to one of the largest school districts in Texas, which operates a total of 473 school buses that together log more than 8 million miles each year. Of these, 442 are either dedicated propane or bi-fuel propane vehicles.
- This district began using alternative fuels in 1981 and is committed to having all of its buses running on propane.
- Please join me in congratulating Northside Independent school district of San Antonio, Texas.
- Accepting on behalf of the School District is Randy Zanata (*pronounced zuh-knot-uh*) who is the Transportation Maintenance Supervisor.

SCHWAN'S SALES ENTERPRISES

- I bet you didn't know that you can now eat ice cream guilt-free...well, maybe not entirely guilt-free...I'm not talking here about low calorie ice cream.

- But, you can be satisfied that your ice cream—low calorie or not—and other frozen goods delivered by Schwan's Sales Enterprises are being transported in one of 7,000 dedicated propane trucks. Schwan's fleet travels about 190 million miles annually and consumes 45 million gallons of propane.
- Vehicles are refueled at 600 depots located across the country.
- Schwan's has been in business, or at least supporting the propane business, since 1971, and the company is a stakeholder in eight of our Clean Cities coalitions.
- Please join me in recognizing Alan Macht (*pronounced mock-d*), Director of Fleet Operations and Chris Greve (*pronounced grieve*), Project Manager for Schwan's/

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Our final award this morning goes to a company that gives trash a good name.
- When Pacific Gas & Electric needed to build a new power plant in Southern California, it had to find credits to offset the emissions from the proposed plant. It found a partner in the El Cajon division of Waste Management.
- Thanks to EPA, PG & E and Waste Management were able to strike an innovative deal. PG&E purchased the emissions credits it needed from Waste Management, which generated

the credits by converting 120 of its aging diesel trucks to natural gas.

- In southern California, Waste Management's LNG refuse trucks will affect an emissions reduction equivalent to removing 9,200 new cars from the road!
- Waste Management, with fleet operations extending from California to right here in Pennsylvania, now has 200 natural gas trucks. By the end of 2001, it will have 350, making the company's natural gas truck fleet one of the nation's largest!
- I'd like to ask Alan Walsh, District Manager, Waste Management of San Diego, to join me and to receive this award.
- Many, many thanks to all of you—Clean Cities Partnership award winners—for your hard work and commitment to alternative fuels, and for leading the way toward a more energy secure future. Please join me in a big round of applause.
- I would like to ask the award recipients, the local organizing committee, and Denise Chamberlain to stay in the room for a group photo. The rest of you get a break, thanks to the United States Postal Service. The break is in Expo Hall C on the 2nd floor.
- We will resume in this room promptly at 10:15 am for the "Who's Driving the Future of Alternative Fuels" panel. Thank you.

